

FOCUSING ON ENERGY

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, it is time to focus on our energy crisis and our energy costs, but that also relates to food.

In our country, we are already seeing bare shelves of food items. You might recall years ago when Boris Yeltsin visited this country. They took him to a supermarket, and he was amazed by what was on American shelves. Now, we are moving in the direction of having shelves like in Russia.

In my home State of California, as they cut off the water supply, the Klamath Basin got zero water last year to farm crops, and in the San Joaquin Valley and part of the Sacramento Valley, zero water allocations.

As we look at conditions around the world, Russia is deciding to cut off some of the imports of fertilizer, which will make it harder to plant crops. Hungary has decided they are not going to export grain anymore this coming year. This is going to have a ripple effect through all food supplies and certainly on prices. The price of wheat is way up, maybe 100 percent—wheat futures. We are going to feel this at the stores if we are not planting our own food in this country.

We have the water to do it in California, but it is all going out in the ocean in order to support fish that no longer live there. And the salinity issue is misused.

We have to focus once again.

CALLING FOR U.S. ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House will consider a bill to provide both humanitarian and military aid to the people of Ukraine.

We must fortify President Zelensky and the Ukrainian people from an unprovoked attack on an independent country. We must also protect ourselves.

Putin has weaponized oil and natural gas export profits, profits that he stole from the Russian people, parking oil profits throughout the world in oligarchs.

Right now, the United States imports 22 million barrels of Russian oil every single month. This is 60 percent of the money that Putin used to leverage his invasion, and it must stop.

Our country needs long-term energy independence.

There are 211 lithium-ion battery plants in the world. Mr. Speaker, 156 are in China, and just 12 are here in the United States. We need to get tough on China, but we need to get tougher on ourselves about China.

Everyone will benefit from an America that is producing electric vehicles and one that is truly energy independent. It is time to get serious about this. American jobs and national security are on the line.

FAMILY FARMS ARE SUFFERING

(Mrs. MILLER of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the critical issues facing my fellow farmers.

The world is on fire under President Biden and his America last agenda. We are seeing skyrocketing costs of critical inputs, such as fertilizer. Nitrogen fertilizer has doubled in price.

Our fuel prices have reached record highs, and President Biden's solution is to beg our enemies in Iran and Venezuela for more oil.

The supply chain crisis was never addressed, and farmers are struggling to find parts to repair equipment. Family farms are suffering, and every American is about to see a drastic increase in the price of food.

I am afraid for regular Americans. This yearlong experiment of woke government has been a disaster.

My constituents in the 15th District miss President Trump and an agenda that put America first.

NAVIGATING THE IRS

(Ms. HOULAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, as the 2022 tax filing season gets underway, I rise to draw attention to the issues that my constituents face when trying to navigate the IRS.

James from Nottingham came to my office because his 2020 return was delayed for almost a year. Lisa from Berwyn called us after she learned that a clerical error at the IRS had led the Social Security Administration to claim that she owed them a significant amount of money. And Tina from Malvern worked with my team to secure a full refund.

Stories like these are far too common. As recently as the end of last year, the agency had a backlog of over 8 million new and amended individual returns.

That is why I was proud to join with over 190 of our House colleagues in sending a letter to Treasury Secretary Yellen, urging her to provide taxpayers with relief and flexibility while the IRS addresses its backlog. These backlogs lead to delays and errors that are devastating to the families and businesses at the heart of my community and many others. It is imperative that this relief and flexibility be provided.

HELPING STARBUCKS EMPLOYEES THRIVE

(Mr. NORCROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I am here to talk about a company you might have heard about: Starbucks. They made the \$8 cup of coffee a little popular.

The workers there through the pandemic are now struggling to form a union. Well, Kevin Johnson, the CEO, got a 39 percent raise. Not bad. The workers took a cut.

Those profits didn't magically appear. Starbucks didn't pour their own coffee. It was the men and women who went out during the pandemic and went to work. Yet, Kevin Johnson gets a \$20 million bonus.

If Kevin is listening, he should do the right thing.

We hear the ethical sourcing that Starbucks talks about helping people thrive. Well, he needs to do it right here in America and treat his employees right.

Mr. Speaker, Kevin should do the right thing and take care of his employees.

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OIL COMPANIES SHOULD NOT PRICE GOUGE

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the President just announced that he will ban the importation of Russian oil. It is a tiny fraction of the oil we consume, so it shouldn't mean a big run-up in price. In fact, prices have already run up 30 percent since the invasion of Ukraine, they have already priced it in, and they are already profiting from it.

We need to become energy independent, as the President pointed out. We have to break our addiction to Big Oil. We need to be self-sufficient on renewables, but we don't need to price gouge the American people on the way there.

Last year, the oil companies reported record profits, bought back \$7 billion worth of stock, and had record dividends. This year, they say there is a \$22 billion stock buyback, bigger dividends, bigger profits. They should not be price gouging during a crisis.

I am introducing legislation for a price gouging profits tax with rebates to consumers.

Colleagues, join me in this effort. Don't let Big Oil gouge the American consumers under the guise of an international crisis.

BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA FOR THE PEOPLE

(Mr. LIEU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, Democrats are building a better America for the people.

This week is the anniversary of the American Rescue Plan that Democrats passed in the House and the Senate, and that President Biden signed into law. That law was transformative. It helped schools reopen and remain open. It also increased vaccine distribution across America. It got people into jobs, and it funded police departments.

We then followed the American Rescue Plan with an infrastructure law that is going to rebuild roads, bridges, and highways; it is going to take lead out of our water pipes; it is going to have EV charging stations across America; and it is going to make sure that we have broadband everywhere.

What are Republicans doing? I am not really sure. But I know that two of them recently attended a white nationalist conference, and last week 174 of them voted “no” to providing benefits to veterans who inhaled toxic fumes.

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

(Ms. STEVENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in awe of the courageous Ukrainian people defending their sovereign land, and in fierce condemnation of the sickening violence the Kremlin is inflicting upon them.

Our children are watching an attack on democracy and a grave violation of international law and global peace unfold, and we must continue to show them it will not be tolerated.

For over 3 years, the Kremlin has tried to intimidate America with the wrongful detention of my constituent, Paul Whelan. While we remain profoundly concerned about our citizens wrongfully detained in Russia, including Trevor Reed and now, Brittney Griner, we will never give up on our mission to bring them home and make President Putin pay.

Financially, economically, militarily, and strategically, the United States is battling for the Ukrainian people.

It is time to ban Russian oil. We prepared for this moment in close coordination with our allies, and the Kremlin will be held accountable.

Our country is united in praying for the safety and well-being of the Ukrainian people on the front lines, for nearly 2 million seeking refuge in neighboring countries, and for those who dwell within our own borders doing everything they can to support their family and friends back home.

I ask my colleagues to join me in demanding Russia end its invasion of Ukraine, withdraw its military forces at once, and release political prisoners.

RECOGNIZING BLAINE HAWKINS

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young man

from my district for shining the national spotlight on Central College by shattering one of the most impressive NCAA records.

Last season, Central College senior quarterback Blaine Hawkins set the new NCAA season record for the most touchdown passes with a total of 63 touchdowns over 13 games, leading the Dutch to an impressive 12-1 season record.

Blaine has garnered national attention for setting the Division III career touchdown record, and he has won several awards, including Player of the Year, Conference Offensive MVP for both the 2019 and 2021 season, and has been named an Academic All-American for the 2018, 2020, and 2021 season.

Congratulations to Blaine and the Central College Dutch for a fantastic season. I wish you all the best.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable KEVIN MCCARTHY, Republican Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 7, 2022.

HON. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to Section 535(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, (22 U.S.C. 2346d(e)), I am pleased to appoint the following member to the People-to-People Partnership for Peace Fund Advisory Board:

Mrs. Dina Powell McCormick, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Republican Leader.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SOTO). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

CONDEMNING THREATS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 70) condemning threats of violence against historically Black colleges and universities (“HBCUs”) and reaffirming support for HBCUs and their students, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 70

Whereas the Federal Bureau of Investigation is investigating the bomb threats made in January and February 2022 against HBCUs as racially or ethnically motivated violent extremism and hate crimes;

Whereas a high-quality education is central to economic prosperity and social well-being in the United States;

Whereas HBCUs provide educational and economic opportunities for postsecondary students;

Whereas these institutions educate and produce a significant share of the Nation’s Black leaders and innovators;

Whereas as early as the 19th century, HBCUs were established in response to discriminatory practices that excluded Black Americans from pursuing an education in the United States;

Whereas, on January 5, 2022, at least 8 HBCUs received bomb threats, including Howard University, Xavier University, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Prairie View A&M University, North Carolina Central University, Florida Memorial University, Norfolk State University, and Spelman College;

Whereas, on January 31, 2022, at least 6 HBCUs received bomb threats, including Southern University and A&M, Howard University, Bethune-Cookman University, Albany State University, Bowie State University, and Delaware State University;

Whereas, on February 1, 2022, the first day of Black History Month, at least 18 HBCUs received bomb threats, including Shorter College, Philander Smith College, Arkansas Baptist College, the University of the District of Columbia, Howard University, Edward Waters University, Spelman College, Fort Valley State University, Kentucky State University, Xavier University, Coppin State University, Morgan State University, Jackson State University, Alcorn State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Rust College, Tougaloo College, and Harris-Stowe State University;

Whereas HBCUs provide an environment of belonging, safety, and security for Black students, faculty, and administrators; and

Whereas these threats against HBCUs disrupt campus environments, obstruct educational opportunities, increase anxiety, and instill fear: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) condemns violence and the threat of violence against HBCUs, including bomb threats made against several HBCUs on January 5, 2022, January 31, 2022, and February 1, 2022; and

(2) reaffirms the commitment of the United States Federal Government to combat violence against HBCU students, faculty, and staff.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 70.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.